

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
PECOS DIVISION

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, on Behalf §  
of Himself and on Behalf of All Others §  
Similarly Situated, §  
*Plaintiff* §  
VS. § CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:19-CV-22-DF  
§  
BARRILLEAUX, INC., §  
*Defendant* §

**JOINT MOTION TO APPROVE CONFIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT  
AND TO DISMISS WITH PREJUDICE**

The Parties file this joint motion to approve their confidential settlement agreement (the “Agreement”) and to dismiss this case with prejudice.

**I.**

On June 12, 2019 Plaintiff, Christopher Williams, brought this lawsuit on behalf of himself and others similarly situated to recover wages allegedly owed pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act (“FLSA”) arising out of Defendant’s exclusion of certain *per diem* payments in the calculation of the overtime rate of pay. Defendant filed an answer in the lawsuit denying liability to Plaintiffs, claiming that they paid Plaintiffs properly, and raising bona fide defenses to Plaintiffs’ claims.

On 3/10/20, this Court conditionally certified this case as a collective action and authorized the issuance of notice to the putative class members. *See*, Doc. 30. More than two hundred class members filed consent forms to join the case. Thereafter, several Plaintiffs dismissed their claims after it was determined that they were not eligible to assert a claim and/or the statute of limitations had expired on their claim.

The Parties exchanged written discovery and over thirteen thousand (13,000) pages of documents – including payroll information for each of the Plaintiffs. Depositions were also taken.

On 4/6/21, the Parties mediated their dispute with Les McLaughlin in Midland, Texas. The Parties did not reach an agreement to resolve their dispute at mediation. However, after approximately six (6) additional months of discovery and continued negotiations, the Parties finally resolved their dispute. Pursuant to the confidential settlement agreement (the “Agreement”), each Plaintiff will receive his prorated share of the unpaid overtime wages (and other damages) that he claimed or could have claimed by way of this lawsuit.

## **II.**

The terms of the settlement are confidential. Plaintiff has approved the settlement and has signed the Agreement. Similarly, Defendant has approved and signed the Agreement. All Parties are in agreement as to the apportionment and distribution of the settlement funds. The settlement is in the best interest of all parties. Moreover, there is substantial risk the Plaintiffs may be unsuccessful on the merits if this compromise settlement is not approved.

## **III.**

The Agreement was negotiated at arm’s length and represents the resolution of a bona fide wage dispute. All Parties were represented by counsel with years of experience handling these types of FLSA cases. The Parties represent to the Court that the terms of the settlement are fair, reasonable, were negotiated at arms-length, and are in the best interests of the Plaintiffs and Defendants as well. By entering into this settlement, however, the Defendants have not conceded liability.

In light of the Parties’ settlement, they now respectfully request that the Court enter the accompanying order approving the settlement and dismissing this case with prejudice to refiling, and with each party bearing their own costs.

The Parties request the Court to grant their joint motion and sign the accompanying order reflecting the same.

Respectfully Submitted,

BARRILEAUX, INC., by and through its attorneys with SHAFER, DAVIS, O'LEARY & STOKER  
P. O. Drawer 1552  
Odessa, TX 79760-1552  
Ph: 432.332.0893  
Fax: 432.333.5002

By: /s/ R. Layne Rouse  
MILES NELSON  
State Bar No. 14904750  
Email: [mnelson@shaferfirm.com](mailto:mnelson@shaferfirm.com)  
R. LAYNE ROUSE  
State Bar No. 24066007  
Email: [lrouse@shaferfirm.com](mailto:lrouse@shaferfirm.com)

**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT**

AND

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, on Behalf of Himself and on Behalf of All Others Similarly Situated, by and through his attorneys with

DEBES LAW FIRM

By: /s/ Robert R. Debes, Jr.  
Robert R. Debes, Jr.  
Texas Bar No. 05626150  
One Riverway, Ste. 1700  
Houston, Texas 77056  
[bdebes@debeslaw.com](mailto:bdebes@debeslaw.com)  
713.623.0900 – tele  
713.623.0951 - fax

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS**